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10/777,914	02/11/2004	Susumu Murakami	60796 (48882)	6070

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EXAMINER

CHEN, SOPHIA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2852

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,914

Applicant(s)

MURAKAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Sophia S. Chen

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 15-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/11/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: translation of 2003-241615.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: H (Figures 3, 6, 13, and 14). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 15, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Noguchi et al. (US Pat. No. 5,579,098)

The patent discloses an access-controlling mechanism comprising: one or more apparatus (image forming apparatus) main bodies (column 3, lines 39-44); one or more access-controlling bodies (a fixing unit) 4 removably deployed at one of more openings of at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies (Figure 1); one or more engaging means (a positioning boss) 22 causing at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 deployed at at least one of the opening or openings of at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies to engage with at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies (Figures 2(b) and 2(c)); one or more disengaging means (a fixing lever) 31 provided at at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 and disengaging engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 22 (Figures 2(b) and 2(c)); at least one of the disengaging means 31 being such that disengagement of

engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 22 occurs due to the fact that actuation of at least one of the disengaging means 31 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 to move away (vertically upward) from at least one of the engaging means 22 and in one or more first directions (upward) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 22 (Figures 2(b) and 2(c)); at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 is supported by one or more guide members (guide rails) 21 so as to permit movement with respect to at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies; at least one of the disengaging means 31 is at least one disengaging lever (fixing lever) 31 comprising one or more actuation regions (Figures 3 and 10; the area having the reference numeral 31 assigned), one or more pivot regions 84 (Figure 10), and one or more action regions 31a (Figure 3); and disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 22 occurs due to the fact that at least one of the actuation region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 receives one or more actuation forces, at least one of action region or regions 31a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 is displaced, and at least one of the action region or regions 31a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 22 and in one or more first directions (vertically upward – inherently in at least one vicinity of at least one imaginary vertical line depending from at least one center of gravity of at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4) tending to cause

disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 22 (Figures 2(b) and 2(c)).

The patent also discloses at least one of the action region or regions 31a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 22 and in one or more first directions (vertically upward) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 22 (Figures 2(b) and 2(c)), in at least one vicinity (emphasis added) of at least one location where at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 is engaged by at least one of the engaging means 22 (Figure 2(b)); at least one location where engagement by at least one of the engaging means 22 occurs and at least one location of at least one of the action region or regions 31a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 differ in at least on direction perpendicular to at least one direction of deployment and/or removal of at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 (Figure 2(b)); at least one of the action region or regions 31a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 is in at least one vicinity (emphasis added) of at least one pivot region of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 (Figures 2(b) and 3); and at least one of the action region or regions 31a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 is in at least one location distant from at least one pivot region 84 of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 31 (Figures 3 and 10).

The patent further discloses at least one of the disengaging means 31 is such that at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 is displaced away from at

least one of the apparatus main body or bodies simultaneously with respect to disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 22 occurring due to the fact that actuation of at least one of the disengaging means 31 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 4 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 22 and in one or more first directions (vertically upward) tending to cause disengagement of engaging means 22 produced by at least one of the engaging means 22 (Figures 2(b) and 2(c)).

5. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Namiki (US Pat. No. 5,280,331).

The patent discloses an access-controlling mechanism comprising: one or more apparatus (image forming apparatus) main bodies 2; one or more access-controlling bodies (a re-feeding unit) 77 removably deployed at one of more openings of at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 2 (Figures 5 and 6); one or more engaging means 26a causing at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 deployed at at least one of the opening or openings of at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 2 to engage with at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 2 (Figures 5 and 6); one or more disengaging means (a retraction regulating lever) 90 provided at at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 and disengaging engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 26a (Figures 3 and 6); at least one of the disengaging means 90 being such that disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 26a occurs due to the fact that actuation of at least one of the disengaging means 90 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or

bodies 77 to move away (to the right) from at least one of the engaging means 26a and in one or more first directions (right) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 26a (Figures 5 and 6); at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 is supported by one or more guide members (guide rails) 69a so as to permit movement with respect to at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 2; at least one of the disengaging means 90 is at least one disengaging lever 90 comprising one or more actuation regions (Figure 6; the area having the finger pushed), one or more pivot regions 91 (Figures 3 and 6), and one or more action regions 90a (Figure 6); and disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 26a occurs due to the fact that at least one of the actuation region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 receives one or more actuation forces, at least one of action region or regions 90a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 is displaced, and at least one of the action region or regions 90a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 26a and in one or more first directions (to the right) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 26a (Figures 5 and 6).

The patent also discloses at least one of the action region or regions 90a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 26a and in one or more first directions (to the right) tending to cause disengagement of

engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 26a (Figures 5 and 6), in at least one vicinity (emphasis added) of at least one location where at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 is engaged by at least one of the engaging means 26a (Figure 5); one or more disengaging-lever restoring-force-imparting means (a compression spring) 92 imparting at least one of the actuation region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 with at least one restoring force opposite in direction to at least one actuation direction; at least one of the action region or regions 90a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 is in at least one vicinity (emphasis added) of at least one pivot region 91 of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 (Figure 5); and at least one of the action region or regions 90a of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 is in at least one location distant from at least one pivot region 91 of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 90 (Figures 5 and 6).

The patent further discloses at least one of the disengaging means 90 is such that at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 is displaced away from at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 2 simultaneously with respect to disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 26a occurring due to the fact that actuation of at least one of the disengaging means 90 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 26a and in one or more first directions (to the right) tending to cause disengagement of engaging means 26a produced by at least one of the engaging means 26a (Figures 5 and 6); and one or more access-controlling-body

restoring-force-imparting means 92 imparting at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 77 with at least one restoring force in at least one deployment direction or in at least one removal direction (Figures 5 and 6).

6. Claims 1-11, 15, 16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al. (US Pat. No. 6,947,687 B2)

The patent discloses an access-controlling mechanism comprising: one or more apparatus (rotary flanges of an image forming apparatus) main bodies 50; one or more access-controlling bodies (development cartridges) 40 removably deployed at one of more openings of at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 50 (Figure 2); one or more engaging means 50d causing at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 deployed at at least one of the opening or openings of at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 50 to engage with at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 50 (Figures 2, 4, and 5); one or more disengaging means 381 provided at at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 and disengaging engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 50d (Figures 4 and 5); at least one of the disengaging means 381 being such that disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 50d occurs due to the fact that actuation of at least one of the disengaging means 381 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 to move away (vertically upward) from at least one of the engaging means 50d and in one or more first directions (upward) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 50d (Figures 4 and 5); at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 is

supported by one or more guide members (guide rails) 50c so as to permit movement with respect to at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 50 (Figure 2); at least one of the disengaging means 381 is at least one disengaging lever 381 comprising one or more actuation regions 381a, 381b (Figures 4 and 5), one or more pivot regions 381f, 381g (Figures 4 and 5), and one or more action regions 381c (Figures 4 and 5); and disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 50d occurs due to the fact that at least one of the actuation region or regions 381a, 381b of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 receives one or more actuation forces, at least one of action region or regions 381c of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 is displaced, and at least one of the action region or regions 381c of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 50d and in one or more first directions (vertically upward – inherently in at least one vicinity of at least one imaginary vertical line depending from at least one center of gravity of at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 50d (Figures 4 and 5).

The patent also discloses at least one of the action region or regions 381c of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 50d and in one or more first directions (vertically upward) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 50d

(Figures 4 and 5), in at least one vicinity (emphasis added) of at least one location where at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 is engaged by at least one of the engaging means 50d (Figures 4 and 5); one or more disengaging-lever restoring-force-imparting means 382 imparting at least one of the actuation region or regions 381a, 381b of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 with at least one restoring force opposite in direction to at least one actuation direction; at least one location where engagement by at least one of the engaging means 50d occurs and at least one location of at least one of the action region or regions 381c of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 differ in at least one direction perpendicular to at least one direction of deployment and/or removal of at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 (Figure 5); at least one of the action region or regions 381c of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 is in at least one vicinity (emphasis added) of at least one pivot region 381f, 381g of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 (Figures 4 and 5); and at least one of the action region or regions 381c of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 is in at least one location distant from at least one pivot region 381f, 381g of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 381 (Figures 4 and 5).

The patent further discloses at least one of the disengaging means 381 is such that at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 is displaced away from at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 50 simultaneously with respect to disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 50d occurring due to the fact that actuation of at least one of the disengaging means 381

causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 50d and in one or more first directions (vertically upward) tending to cause disengagement of engaging means 50d produced by at least one of the engaging means 50d (Figures 2, 4, and 5); and one or more access-controlling-body restoring-force-imparting means 382 imparting at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 40 with at least one restoring force in at least one deployment direction or in at least one removal direction (Figures 4 and 5).

7. Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

8. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Takashi (JP 2003-241615 A; cited in Form PTO-1449).

Takashi discloses an access-controlling mechanism comprising: one or more apparatus (an image forming apparatus) main bodies 100; one or more access-controlling bodies (a fixing device) 1 removably deployed at one of more openings of at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 100 (Figures 1 and 3); one or more engaging means 10b causing at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 deployed at at least one of the opening or openings of at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 100 to engage with at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 100 (Figures 1 and 4); one or more disengaging means 4b provided at at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 and disengaging engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 10b (Figures 3 and 4); at least one of the

disengaging means 4b being such that disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 10b occurs due to the fact that actuation of at least one of the disengaging means 4b causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 to move away (to the left) from at least one of the engaging means 10b and in one or more first directions (to the left) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 10b (Figures 1 and 4); at least one of the disengaging means 4b is at least one disengaging lever 4b comprising one or more actuation regions (Figure 3; the area with reference numeral 4b assigned), one or more pivot regions (Figure 3; the circle between reference numerals 4b and 7b; no reference numeral assigned), and one or more action regions (Figure 3; the hooked area nearby reference numeral 106; no reference numeral assigned); and disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 10b occurs due to the fact that at least one of the actuation region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b receives one or more actuation forces (operator's hand; Figure 4), at least one of action region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b is displaced, and at least one of the action region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 10b and in one or more first directions (to the left) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 10b (Figure 4).

Takashi also discloses at least one of the action region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b causes at least one of the access-controlling body

or bodies 1 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 10b and in one or more first directions (to the left) tending to cause disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 10b (Figures 1 and 4), in at least one vicinity (emphasis added) of at least one location where at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 is engaged by at least one of the engaging means 10b (Figures 3 and 4); one or more disengaging-lever restoring-force-imparting means 5b imparting at least one of the actuation region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b with at least one restoring force opposite in direction to at least one actuation direction (Figure 4); at least one of the action region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b is in at least one vicinity (emphasis added) of at least one pivot region of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b (Figures 3 and 4); and at least one of the action region or regions of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b is in at least one location distant from at least one pivot region of at least one of the disengaging lever or levers 4b (Figures 3 and 4).

The patent further discloses at least one of the disengaging means 4b is such that at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 is displaced away from at least one of the apparatus main body or bodies 100 simultaneously with respect to disengagement of engagement produced by at least one of the engaging means 10b occurring due to the fact that actuation of at least one of the disengaging means 4b causes at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 to move away from at least one of the engaging means 50d and in one or more first directions (to the left) tending to cause disengagement of engaging means 10b produced by at least one of

the engaging means 10b (Figures 1, 3, and 4); one or more access-controlling-body restoring-force-imparting means 5b imparting at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 with at least one restoring force in at least one deployment direction or in at least one removal direction (Figures 1 and 4); at least one stepped surface for stopping at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1 in at least one direction of deployment and/or removal of at least one of the access-controlling body or bodies 1; and at least one sloped surface for surmounting at least one of the stepped surface or surfaces (Figure 4).

9. Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 12-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Other Prior Art

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hiraike et al. (US Pat. No. 5,168,308) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising an apparatus main body; an access-controlling body; engaging means; and disengaging means.

Nagase et al. (US Pat. No. 5,722,013) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising an apparatus main body; an access-controlling body; engaging means; disengaging means; and guide means.

Murayama (US Pat. Pub. No. US 2005/0047821 A1) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising an apparatus main body; an access-controlling body; engaging means; and disengaging means.


Kagaya et al. (JP 62-260165 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising an apparatus main body; an access-controlling body; engaging means; and disengaging means (not provided at the access-controlling body).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sophia S. Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2133. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sophia S. Chen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

Ssc
October 28, 2005